

APPENDIX B

Selected Statistical Agencies and Programs

MAJOR FEDERAL STATISTICAL AGENCIES

Below are brief descriptions of the origins of major federal statistical agencies, in order from the oldest to the newest agency. Sources are Duncan and Shelton (1978) and Norwood (1995). Table B-1 shows fiscal 1997 budgets for each agency.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Patent Office began collecting agricultural statistics in 1840; statistical research and analysis provided for in the Department of Agriculture in 1862; independent statistical agency created in the Department of Agriculture in 1961.

Statistics of Income (SOI) Program, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Statistical Bureau created by law in 1866; made part of the new Department of Commerce and Labor in 1903; made part of the Department of the Treasury in 1913; merged with Compliance Research in 1996.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education

Statistics on condition and progress of education established by law 1867; became part of the new Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1953; made part of the new Department of Education in 1979 with broadened role.

TABLE B-1 Fiscal 1997 Budget Amounts (Estimated) for Major Federal Statistical Agencies

| Agency | Fiscal 1997 Budget (millions of dollars) |
|--|---|
| Bureau of the Census | |
| Current programs | 145.0 |
| Periodic programs (censuses) | 210.5 |
| Bureau of Economic Analysis | 40.9 |
| Bureau of Justice Statistics | 21.4 |
| Bureau of Labor Statistics | 360.8 |
| Bureau of Transportation Statistics | 24.8 |
| Energy Information Administration | 70.9 |
| National Agricultural Statistics Service | 100.2 |
| National Center for Education Statistics | 82.6 |
| National Center for Health Statistics | 86.0 |
| Statistics of Income, Internal Revenue Service | 24.7 |

NOTE: Funding levels shown for NCES and BJS do not include salaries and expenses from other departmental sources.

SOURCE: Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (1997:8).

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor

Created as Bureau of Labor in Department of the Interior by law in 1884; became an independent agency that acted as a department of labor without executive rank; became a bureau in the new Department of Commerce and Labor in 1903; became part of the new Department of Labor in 1913.

Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce

Decennial census required by Constitution beginning in 1790; became a permanent bureau with an expanded mission in 1903 in the new Department of Commerce and Labor; made part of the new Department of Commerce in 1913.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Health data a concern of Public Health Service as early as 1912; made part of the new Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1953; made part of the new Department of Health and Human Services in 1979.

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce

Created as the Office of Business Economics in the Department of Commerce in 1953.

Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. Department of Energy

Created by law in 1977 in the new Department of Energy, which consolidated energy-related activities.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), U.S. Department of Justice

The direct antecedent of BJS was the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; BJS created by the Justice System Improvement Act of 1979.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), U.S. Department of Transportation

Created by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

MODAL ADMINISTRATIONS AND STATISTICAL UNITS IN USDOT

Below is information about the modal administrations in USDOT (in alphabetical order) on total fiscal 1997 appropriated budget and the estimated 1997 budget and 1996 number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) staff for major statistical units within each modal administration. Most statistical units have assistance from contractor staff who supplement their own staff; for example, BTS has an estimated 52 contract employees, not including Census Bureau staff who work on the Commodity Flow Survey and the American Travel Survey; the Safety Data Services Division of the Federal Aviation Administration has an estimated 28 contract employees; and the National Center for Statistics and Analysis of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has an estimated 12 contract employees. Budget information (obligations) for the modal administrations is from Executive Office of the President (1997a); information on programs, budget, and staffing of major statistical units is from interviews with agency staff in fall 1996.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Total FY 1997 Budget: | \$25 million |
| 1996 FTE Staffing: | 37 federal employees |

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Total FY 1997 Budget: | \$8.6 billion |
| Major Statistical Unit: | |

Safety Data Services Division; includes National Aviation Safety Data Analysis Center, which publishes quarterly indicators; 12 federal employees; FY 1997 budget of \$4 million.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Total FY 1997 Budget: \$20.6 billion

Major Statistical Unit:

Office of Highway Information Management; operates Highway Performance Monitoring System and General Highway Statistics Program; 35 federal employees; FY 1997 budget of \$33 million.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

Total FY 1997 Budget: \$1.2 billion

Major Statistical Programs:

FY 1997 budget of \$1.5 million; no separate statistical units.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Total FY 1997 Budget: \$5.5 billion

Major Statistical Unit:

Part of Office of Program Guidance and Support operates the National Transit Data Base; 4 federal employees; FY 1997 budget of \$2 million.

Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Total FY 1997 Budget: \$284 million

Major Statistical Unit:

Office of Statistical and Economic Analysis; 20 federal employees; FY 1997 budget of \$1.6 million.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Total FY 1997 Budget: \$300 million

Major Statistical Unit:

National Center for Statistics and Analysis; operates the Fatal Accident Reporting System and National Accident Sampling System; 40 federal employees; FY 1997 budget of \$27 million.

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA)

Total FY 1997 Budget: \$271 million

Major Statistical Programs:

FY 1997 budget of \$3 million; no separate statistical units.

St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC)

Total FY 1997 Budget: \$12 million; limited statistical activities.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

Total FY 1997 Budget: \$3.9 billion; limited statistical activities.